

Serial No. 09/871,994
Docket No. WN-2326

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REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claim 18 has been canceled. Claims 1, 5, and 8 are independent.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 1-17 are allowed. This Amendment cancels all non-allowed claims. Therefore, this Amendment places the application into condition for allowance.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicant also notes that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Entry of this §1.116 Amendment is proper. Since the Amendments above narrow the issues for appeal and since such features and their distinctions over the prior art of record were discussed earlier, such amendments do not raise a new issue requiring a further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. As such, entry of this Amendment is believed proper and Applicant earnestly solicits entry. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-17, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

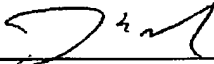
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 10/17/03


James E. Howard
Registration No. 39,715

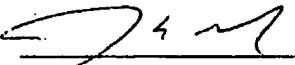
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment was filed by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Examiner Xiuqin Sun, Group Art Unit # 2863 at fax number 703-872-9319 this 17th day of October, 2003.


James E. Howard
Reg. No. 39,715